supplied from the Central Pool to the State Governments for their public distribution systems. The end consumer prices are fixed by the State Governments. The issue prices of the Central Government carry a substantial subsidy.

Ban on begging

1190. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. propose to bring about a legislation to ban begging in the country; and

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to ban begging at the declared tourists centres of the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Beggary Prevention Acts have already been enacted by 16 States and 2 Union Territories. A recommendation was made by the Central Advisory Board on Social Defence in its meeting held on 8th September, 1987, for formulation of a Central law on prevention of beggary for the Union Territories, which may also serve as a model for the State Governments.

Reclamation of saline land

1191. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, for reclamation of saline lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement such scheme in Orissa, which is badly affected by water logged saline lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) and (b) ICAR has not prepared any scheme, but during the 7th Five Year Plan a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh was launched with a Central outlay of Rs. 21.00 crores to reclaim an area of 1.32 lakh hectares.

Year-wise releases and area reclaimed in the 3 States is as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	Area reclaimed (ha.)
1986-87	395.50	27856
1987-88	200.00	29369
1988-89	386.50	28063

(c) No, Sir.

Cost over-run of Haldia Fertiliser Project

1192. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for the cost over-run in the case of Haldia Fertiliser Project; and

(b) the steps taken to complete the project without further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) The project was mechanically completed in November, 1979 after a delay of nearly three years as against the original schedule of October, 1976. As the West Bengal Electricity Board could not supply the promised power, investment had to be made in a gas turbine power plant which was commissioned in January, 1982. However, due to repetitive breakdown of major equipments, the project could not be commissioned and commissioning had to be given up in October,